Tens of thousands of female teens enter into prostitution every year. While there is some debate over the precise scope and nature of teen prostitution in the U.S., it is generally believed by most experts that at least 1 million teens engage in prostitution annually.

Studies suggest a strong correlate between runaway youth and underage prostitution. According to the National Runaway Switchboard, 1.3 million children are homeless or runaways in the U.S. By some estimates, ninety percent of these children will sell their bodies as a means to survive. More than two-thirds of children that runaway will end up in prostitution. Children who have runaway due to incest, physical, emotional or sexual abuse are ninety percent more likely to engage in prostitution.

Up to 400,000 children in the U.S. are lured into the sex trade each year according to a study released by the University of Pennsylvania (2001). A child is propositioned for sex within the first seventy-two hours that she/he is on the streets.

The median age for a prostituted child is fifteen and a half. The average age that a child enters prostitution is fourteen. Studies suggest that up to two-thirds of underage prostituted children are females. Girls are especially vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) by pimps and operators in the sex industry.

A high percentage of prostituted children will abuse drugs, alcohol, suffer abuse from pimps, pedophiles, customers and sex traffickers. They also face a high risk for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Prostituted girls experience a high incidence of violence including aggravated assault, trauma, rape, physical beatings, sodomy and murder. Many of them also experience physical and medical conditions such as pelvic inflammatory disease, pregnancy, tuberculosis, eating disorders, sleep deprivation and depression.

An estimated 5,000 children will lose their lives on the streets of America each year due to assault, overdose, suicide or illness. Ninety percent of teenage girls are induced, coerced or forced into teen prostitution by a pimp. About eighty to ninety-five percent of pimps are believed to control teen prostitution in the U.S.